

# Larry Springer

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 45th DISTRICT

## 2008 Session Report

### Critical movement on 520 in Olympia

We simply couldn't leave Olympia this year without a solid plan to replace the SR 520 Bridge. This roadway is vital to our district, which is why I'm pleased to report on the progress we made.



### Agreement on bridge design

The final details are still being worked out through a mediation process, but general agreement has been reached on a six-lane replacement bridge design. We will build two general-purpose lanes and one high-occupancy vehicle/transit lane in each direction. Most importantly, we will make the landings at either end large enough to accommodate future construction of additional high-capacity transit in both directions. This is a milestone achievement and will ensure our ability to accommodate future growth in our region.

### A new bridge sooner at a lower price

Gov. Gregoire issued good news in March, announcing that the bridge can be completed sooner and built for millions less. The current plan has the replacement open for traffic in the fall of 2014, 4 years ahead of schedule. This expedited schedule will cut \$100 to \$200 million from the construction costs.



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## 2008 Session Report

State Representative  
**Larry Springer**  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

**Town Hall Meeting Notice**  
May 17th at 1:00 p.m.  
Woodinville Library  
17105 Avondale Rd. NE

# Larry Springer

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 45th DISTRICT

## 2008 Session Report



Dear neighbors,

Now that the 2008 session is over, I'm back in my district office and looking forward to hearing from you.

A lot has happened in the last couple years, and Washington state has had to adapt — your family is probably doing the same thing. Gas prices are insane; health care costs keep rising, and the economy has slowed down in the last year.

In response to this uncertainty, the Legislature passed a responsible budget, focused on the basics, which included a record **\$850 million** in reserves. Some of our other accomplishments are detailed inside the newsletter.

Thanks again for letting me represent you; it's an honor.

Larry Springer

**State Representative**  
45<sup>th</sup> District  
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# STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 45th DISTRICT Larry Springer

## Protections for consumers, homeowners



### Ensuring mortgage brokers work for you

Getting a mortgage is a complicated process. This year we moved to ban certain products, like negative amortization loans, and require better disclosure of loan terms.

The brokers setting up mortgages aren't solely to blame for our current conditions, but some are not providing the best product for their clients. Starting this year, mortgage brokers will have a duty under law to act in your best interest.

### Protecting Homeowners

We put a lot of trust in the people that build and remodel our homes. This year we authorized the Department of Licensing to review our contractor regulations and a report on their review will be delivered to the Legislature this year.

I serve on the task force reviewing legislation to protect homeowners from shoddy construction practices by both home builders and remodelers. This interim I'll continue working to protect a family's biggest investment, their home.

### Housing security for families

As Vice Chair of the Housing Committee, I've spent countless hours working with people to address our state's housing crisis. In the last couple of years, mortgage and foreclosure issues have been added to our existing list of problems.

### Homes for families at risk

One of our most successful programs, Transitional Housing Operating and Rent (THOR), received an additional \$2.5 million in funding this year. The Senate companion to my bill passed the Legislature, helping homeless families and individuals find temporary homes while they figure out long-term housing solutions.

### \$70 million more for affordable housing projects

Over the last two years, the Legislature has authorized \$200 million in capital funding for affordable housing projects around the state. As our communities know well, there is a shortage of homes available for people outside the high-income bracket. This session, the Legislature increased funding for affordable housing by \$70 million. This will provide long-term housing relief in our state.



## Helping working families secure home loans

The Housing Finance Commission (HFC) is a state organization responsible for a broad range of housing-related activities. One of their programs helps lower and

middle-income families attain low-interest rate loans. This year, the Legislature gave the HFC permission to issue more loans, so they can offer additional families that much needed hand up into homeownership.

### Education funding

#### This year's budget

The 2008 supplemental operating budget included approximately \$101 million in additional spending for our state's public schools. This includes a 3.9% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for teachers, required by voter approved Initiative 732.

In addition, I fought for additional funding to restore part of the COLA that was not provided in the 2003-05 biennium, making the increase 4.4% for the 2009 school year.

We also provided \$3.1 million to lower the student to staff ratio for classified education employees and an additional \$6.5 million for non-employee related costs such as text books and computers. Lastly, I am particularly pleased this year's budget included \$4 million for school libraries.

### Basic Education Task Force

Last session a bipartisan task force was created to make recommendations on the funding formula for basic education. Their report is due this fall, in time I hope to help us formulate a plan to adequately fund the state's paramount duty to basic education. I am hopeful that there will be consensus on the recommendations and that we will be able to use the findings of the task force to lay out a path to FULLY funding basic education, even though that will certainly take more than one budget cycle. The task is daunting, but it is imperative we have a path and the commitment to stick to it. Our students can't be asked to wait any longer.



## Issues to work again next year...

There are two issues I've been working on for the past three years that are widely supported in the House, yet have been stopped in the Senate. Next year I'll renew my efforts to pass these pieces of needed legislation.



## ■ Protections for property owners against eminent domain

Being hit with an eminent domain notice on your property will change your life forever. Greater safeguards are needed so that people receive fair treatment and compensation. My legislation provides for a series of protections, focused on allowing a person to buy back the property if it's unused after several years, better compensation for appraisal fees, and restrictions on governmental entities.

## ■ Housing to meet future growth

As I mentioned, we must continue to tackle the housing crisis in our state. Requiring local governments to plan for enough housing to meet future population and job growth would have wide reaching effects. My House Bill 1727 would ensure homes are built near jobs, where we need them, so you don't have to commute two hours to work everyday.

